(c) what is the estimated loss likely to be suffered on that account and what steps Government are contemplating to clear the stock of coal to minimise the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) and (b) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) imports coking coal through various ports including Paradip Port. It plans for an import of about 30,000 tonnes per month through this port and at any period of time, the normal stocks at the port vary between 20—30,000 tonnes. As on April 30, 1986, a relatively high stock of about 48,000 tonnes had accumulated due to inadequate availability of wagons at the port and dislocation of port equipment for some time.

(c) The imported coking coal is stored in SAIL's stockyard taken on lease from the Port, as such no demurrage has been paid to the Port authorities on account of this storage. Steps are being taken in coordination with Railways and the Port authorities to expedite movement of this coking coal to the steel palnts. As a result of these measures, the stocks have come down to around 43,900 tonnes as on the 4th May, 1986.

Allotment of housing contracts by the DDA

*249. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA :

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of firms which have been granted housing contracts worth more than Rs. 2 crores in the year 1985 by the DDA along with the names, tendered cost, and allotted rate of each contract; and

(b) the volume of housing work done by each of these firms in 1984 on the basis of actual payments received by them against the work ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) Nineteen firms have been alloted total housing contracts of more than Rs. 2 crores in the year 1985-86 by Delhi Development Authority. Their details alongwith tendered cost and allotted rate of each contracts are given in Statement-I laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXXXVIII, Annexure No. 41].

(b) The requisite information is given in Statement-II laid on the Table of the House . [*See* Appendix CXXXVIII, Annexure No. 42]

Demands of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society

@*250. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press report which appeared in the Times of India dated the 19th March, 1986, stating that the Prime Minister had assured a delegation of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society that he would look into their demands, including a stay in the hike in the prices of indigenous newsprint and the abolition of customs duty on imported newsprint; and

(b) if so, what is the response of Government in this regard ?

@Previously Starred Question 170 transferred from the 5th May, 1986.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) A statement containing the details of the demands made by the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society in a memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister on 17-3-1986 and the reaction of the Government thereon is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

Sl. No.	Demands made by IENS	Reaction of the Government thereto
1	2	3
1	The newspaper industry should be accepted as service industry having a definite social objective and commercial considerations like return on capital or profits should not be given predominance;	The Second Press Commission went into various aspects of the press as an industry and has made certain recommendations which have been considered by the Government but no decision has been taken yet.
2	Ways and means should be adopted to reduce the cost of production of indigennous newsprint manufactureres;	The recent hike in the price of the indigennous newsprint produced by NEPA Mills, Hindustan Newsprint Ltd., Mysore Paper Mills and Tamilnadu Newsprint and Paper Mills had to be effected after a detailed study by the Ministry of Industry. It had not been possible to meet the losses of the Mills and to convert Government loans granted to these mills into equity. The major contributory factors in the prices of the indigenous newsprint are forest royalty rates, power tariff, taxes on captive power generations etc. These fall within the domain of the state government concerned. The Centre can, at best appeal to them to consider reduction therein. This has been normally done.
3	As a short term policy, Government should grant morotorium on interest payment and loan repayments due to Central Government from newsprint units during the gestation period.	
4	Larger quantity of newsprint should be imported especially when the international prices are low.	Consistent with the country's policy to attain self-reliance, the quantum of the newsprint to be imported is worked out after assessing the availability of indigenous newsprint.
5	Customs duty on imported newsprint should be abolished.	Customs duty on imported newsprint has recently been reduced to Rs. 550/- PMT after a detailed study by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP). There is no proposal, at present to alter the rates of the customs duty on newsprint.
6	Customs duty on imported items of daily use like presensitized negative off-set plates, RC paper Graphic art films etc. should be reduced.	The customs duty on photo polymer (relief image) plate, polymer plate, processing equipment, automatic film for use in printing industry and colour scanner has already been reduced to 35% *ad valorem* as part of budget 1986-87. It has, however, not been possible to accept the suggestion for reduction of customs duty on other items like graphic art films RC paper, printing ink, art paper etc.

1	2	3
7	Suitable guidelines for all wage-boards should be evolved, keeping in view the interest of national economy and the need for avoiding the distortion in the wage structure.	Wage boards for newspaper industry are, at present set-up under the provision of the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Condition of Service) and Misc. Provision Act, 1955. Future policy for setting up such board has not yet been formulated.
8	The draft of the long-term policy being formulated should be given to IENS well in advance for active consideration.	Broad parameters of the draft longterm Newsprint Policy have already been discussed with the representative of IENS.
9	Necessary foreign exchange should be allocated for import of the backlog of the newsprint due to newspaper establishment.	This matter will be considered while formulating the newsprint allocation policy.
10	Import of newsprint should be de-canalised.	It has not been possible to decanalise the import of newsprint as canalisation of import of newsprint through S.T.C. has been considered to be more advantageous to newspapers particularly of small and medium categories.
11	Adequate finance should be extended to newspaper establishments by the financial institutions for modernisation.	Newspapers are free to make their own arrangements with the financial institutions for raising funds for modernisation of the industry.
12	D.A.V.P. advertisement rates should be revised.	D.A.V.P. advertisement rates have already been revised upward by 30 per cent with effect from 1-9-1985.

Joint ventures for fishing

*251. DR. SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the names of companies which have applied for permission for joint ventures, in experimental fishing and fresh chartering of foreign fishing boats ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

Sl. No. of Applications	Name of Companies/Corporations
Joint Ventures	
1.	Jyoti Seafood Pvt. Ltd., Visakhapatnam.
2.	Indus Foods Ltd., Hyderabad.
3.	Salstar Marine Ltd., Bombay.
4.	K.S.K. Fisheries Ltd., Calcutta.
5.	Golden Protein Ltd., New Delhi.
6.	Varuna Marine Ltd., New Delhi.
7.	Tropical Shipping (P) Ltd., New Delhi.